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SOURCE Volkartime.

USE ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE TO PRODUCE VACCINE

Several thousand kilograms per week of active aluminum hydroxide are being shipped by the Nitrite Factory in Berlin-Koepenick, sole producer of aluminum hydroxide in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), to the Institut fuer Tierseuchenbekämpfung (Institute for Veterinary Diseases) on the Island of Riems, which produces vaccines for animal diseases.

Aluminum hydroxide is the basic substance used in the production of sera to counteract hoof-and-mouth disease and erysipelas. The compound is also used to produce diphtheria, typhus, and tetanus vaccines. The active ingredient is obtained from calves kept by the VEB (Federation of People-Owned Enterprises) for Food and Canned Goods in Berlin-Ehenschoenhausen. On the Island of Riems, the two agents are then combined to produce the vaccine.

The aluminum hydroxide must be kept at a constant temperature of 6 degrees (Celsius). Therefore, the institute is notified by telegraph when the trucks which carry the glass carboys containing the compound leave, so that preparations can be made for unloading immediately on arrival.

Since Riems has been declared off limits to the public to prevent danger of contagion, the carboys are taken to the island by special cable cars, now the only connection with the mainland.

Early in 1951, the production of the nitrite factory increased 100 percent compared with the average 1950 output. A further 50-percent increase was made possible by the people-owned machine-building enterprises of the GDR, when they overcame the bottleneck created by the lack of adequate special equipment for the production of aluminum hydroxide. Special high-speed machines for this purpose are now being manufactured in the GDR.

By working on a three-shift schedule, the nitrite factory has been able to increase its output by 300 percent. The current daily output amounts to several hundred kilograms of aluminum hydroxide.

The most modern equipment for the production of vaccines is to be installed in a new building to be constructed on Riems in 1952.

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